

**Not Yet  
Approved**

**WALLINGFORD REGIONAL SOLID WASTE PROJECT  
POLICY BOARD**

**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING ON April 13, 2016**

**9:00 A.M.**

**WALLINGFORD TOWN HALL, ROOM 315**

A Meeting of the Policy Board of the Wallingford Regional Solid Waste Project was held at the Wallingford Town Hall on April 13, 2016. Present at the meeting were William Dickinson, Mayor of Wallingford; Larry Kendzior, City Manager of Meriden; Michael Milone Town Manager of Cheshire; and Michael Freda, First Selectman of North Haven. Curt Leng, Mayor of Hamden, was absent.

Others in attendance were: Don Roe and Susan Schott, Town of Wallingford; Joe Vitale of Covanta.

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Larry Kendzior, Acting Chairman due to the absence of Mr. Leng.

- I. **A motion was made by Mayor Dickinson and seconded by Michael Freda to approve the minutes from the following meetings: January 13, 2016 WRSWP Meeting and the February 16, 2016 WRSWP Special Meeting. Michael Milone stated he was not present for the January 13 meeting; however, he reviewed them with Louis Zullo, who was present at said meeting, and stated the minutes were fine. Michael Freda also stated a proxy had attended the same meeting and had agreed the minutes were fine. The motion was unanimously approved.**

- II. **Project Update**

- A. ***Report on Waste Volumes and Plant Operations***

Joe Vitale stated Covanta had processed 13,850 tons of waste in the first quarter of 2016 compared to 24,834 tons a year ago. He stated this was due to a reduction in the commercial volume. He said he wanted to update the Board on a dispute that Covanta had with MIRA regarding commercial tonnages. He said when the asset switched ownership, there had been a waste agreement with MIRA, previously CRRA, that they could not "poach" tons of commercial waste from our communities. He said he was aware of at least five haulers that had commercial deals with Hartford. Covanta sent those haulers a letter stating they needed to cease and desist and that they were in violation of agreement. Mr. Vitale said the haulers wrote back, stating they were not in violation, therefore, they had set up a meeting for Monday, April 18 to discuss the matter. He added that Covanta felt they were correct and that the haulers were not supposed to take commercial tons of waste from the five communities, yet they have. Mr. Vitale told the Board members he would update them when he had more information. He stated that the commercial tons were going to Hartford

Mr. Kendzior asked what Hartford was charging for commercial waste. Mr. Vitale said it was the low to mid-sixties. Mr. Kendzior asked if Covanta was still near \$100. Mr. Vitale stated Covanta was at \$115. Mr. Kendzior commented that it shouldn't be a surprise as

to why the haulers were going to Hartford. Mr. Vitale said it was not a surprise, and that they had options, but Hartford should not be one of those options.

**B. *Enforcement Activities***

Mr. Vitale stated he knew of no enforcement issues with the facility; however, Mary Ruder, Facilities Manager, was absent from the meeting due to being in training.

**C. *Environmental***

Mr. Vitale stated there were no environmental issues.

**D. *Update on Permit Status***

Mr. Vitale said the status of the permit was that the permit had been filed and that he had spoken to Mr. Roe regarding maximizing the site. He said they added some ewaste potential, C&D, and recycling potential and the permit was under review by DEEP.

Mr. Kendzior asked if the Hartford site was fully operational. He said they were operational, had been for a while, and added that their scheduled outage would begin April 24 to May 21. Mr. Kendzior questioned if they were taking their waste to Preston. Mr. Vitale said at this time they didn't have any commercial tons, so the volume for commercial was minimal they were receiving.

Mr. Roe asked if any Wallingford project waste is going out of state. Mr. Vitale said the residential tons were going to the Lisbon or to the Preston facilities. Mr. Kendzior questioned if any of the waste went to Bristol, or if Bristol received only from their own towns. Mr. Vitale stated Bristol received some tons in January, and what happened was that Hartford was going into outage, so Bristol received some kickback from the Hartford towns to drive Hartford inventory down prior to their going into outage. He reiterated that this facility would be going into outage in May, and they would try to get the inventory down prior to the outage.

Mr. Roe asked what the timetable on the permit was. Mr. Vitale stated that in past years, it took up to two years for a renewal. Mr. Vitale stated that due to this, he could not give a time table. He said there was an effort to get DEEP to commit to speed up approvals on permits; Mr. Vitale said he had a meeting with Commissioner Klee April 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss issues with the State. Mr. Roe said what the permit made really clear was that Wallingford was going to be exclusively a waste transfer station, and no longer a burn plant. Mr. Vitale agreed.

**III. *Legislative Overview***

**A. *SB 233: An Act Concerning a Reduction of Consumer-based Packaging Materials***

**B. *SB 226: An Act Concerning Single-Use Carry Out Bags***

Mr. Roe said he had supplied a summary of Senate Bill 233 to the Board members. He said the bill concerned the reduction of consumer-based packaging materials. He added that Senate Bill 226, concerning single-use carry out bags, ties into the direction DEEP

espouses in the “Solid Waste Plan” now being called the “Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy”. Mr. Roe added the fiscal note stated there would be no impact on communities. He added that also in the summary was what was proposed in Senate Bill 226: An Act Concerning Single-Use Carry Out Bags.

Mr. Kendzior asked if that referred to the plastic carry out bags that can’t be recycled. Mr. Roe stated the bill included plastic and paper bags. Mr. Kendzior commented that they would be replaced by the cloth bags that people brought back and forth. Mr. Roe agreed. These measures were on the Senate calendar.

***C. HB 5149: An Act Concerning Beneficial End Uses for Discarded Tires & the Efficacy of Tire Hauling Licences or Permits***

Mr. Roe stated the issue of used tires was referred to in House Bill 5149. He stated that since the Sterling Plant was no longer operational, tires were being sent to Maine to use as fuel for paper processing. He said this is apparently inconsistent with the State policy. This measure has not moved onto the House calendar.

**IV. Solid Waste Management Best Practices/Emerging Trends**

Mr. Roe said most of the emerging trends were more related to the direction the State was going in terms of its Materials Management Plan to be taken up under staff report.

**V. Reserves**

***A. WRSWP Interlocal Reserve Account Update***

Mr. Roe stated that the Finance office did not at present time, have the March balance for the Reserve Account; however, they had supplied a balance through February 29 of \$2,016,623.58. He added that when received, the March balance would be sent to the Board members and appropriate finance officials.

**VI. Project Coordinator Report**

***A. Update of Project Coordinator Staffing***

Mr. Roe said the Town had been unsuccessful in filling the Project Coordinator position. He added they had looked at five candidates, made two offers and both people withdrew. He said the Town had begun to configure a Plan “B”, which consists of a part-time secretary to handle the secretarial functions and engaging a consulting engineer or MSW consultant to handle the more technical side of the position.

***B. Review of FY 2017 Project Coordinator Budget***

Mr. Roe stated the Town had not completed a budget for the 2017 fiscal year due to the status the project coordinator position. He said the bottom line was that the allocation that came to the Town from Covanta, would stay with the project. He added that in the next fiscal year, there would be underruns due to the possible change in the position.



Mr. Freda asked if the salary was \$44,000 per year. Mr. Roe stated that was Doreen Zaback's salary. He added it was a 19 ½ hour per week position.

Mr. Kendzior questioned why people withdrew from taking the position. Mr. Roe explained that one of the applicants was looking to transition into two part time jobs, but desired benefits that the Town does not offer. Mr. Roe said the other person was not an experienced solid waste person and ultimately, while she had experience on many other fronts, withdrew. Mayor Dickinson stated he had been involved in the interviews of the mentioned applicants and felt if this were a full time job, people would be interested. He added that people wanted a position with full benefits. Mayor Dickinson said the applicants had no experience with this type of position at all and felt they would only be considered clerical help. He felt the rate of pay was far too high for clerical support only. He agreed with Mr. Roe in stating that the Town would consider adding the clerical position and hiring consultant(s) for the more technical aspects of the job. Mayor Dickinson stated the position was a very specialized one and that most people with experience with solid waste already had full time positions in the field.

Mayor Dickinson mentioned Pam Roach, who had worked for the Town of Hamden. Mr. Roe stated she was now a full time employee at Take2 Electronics. Mr. Roe said Ms. Roach's suggestion was to combine the Wallingford part time position with the now vacant Hamden part time position. Mr. Roe said this could be an option and commented that Meriden and Wallingford had done this for a Veteran's office position. Mr. Kendzior stated that was correct, and that Meriden sent the Town of Wallingford money to cover part of a full time salary. Mayor Dickinson stated that one community would be required to be the employer, in order to supply benefits. He said due to the ACA requirements this would remain a cost item of concern. There was additional discussion by members about ACA and its impacts.

Mr. Vitale asked if Mr. Roe has spoken to Mark Bobman from Bristol. Mr. Roe said he had not, but he could.

Mr. Kendzior asked Mayor Dickinson if he was okay with the current Town staff doing the work of the Project Coordinator. Mayor Dickinson replied that Mr. Roe would need to sort out the logistics of his office continuing to do the work, but at this point they would continue coverage. Michael Freda stated he would not be opposed to granting compensation to Wallingford for the administrative time. Mayor Dickinson said the Town would consider that option.

**C. *Notice re: State of CT Comprehensive Materials Management Strategy (2016 CT Solid Waste Plan)***

Mr. Roe stated the handout was not the complete document, but the action steps of the Strategy. He said the DEEP was required by law to update their solid waste plan. The solid waste landscape had changed significantly over the last 20-25 years: 1) there are changes to the waste stream, 2) there are changes to the collection process (migrating from hand collection to automated collection), and 3) the end of the life of waste to energy plants. In order to handle MSW in-State, DEEP stated that based on volumes, the composition of the waste stream, and capacity at waste to energy plants, the State

needs to achieve a 60% diversion rate by 2024. He said diversion included a variety of activities, not just recycling. Mr. Roe added that recycling was a big piece of that, so that when looking at the objectives in the report, Objective One is to increase the rate of recycling to 45% in eight years. He said there were graduated steps but that it is his guess was that all of the five Towns would satisfy the first step. Other options to achieve this include: more enforcement, adoption of pay as you throw programming, recycling of food waste, and better recycling of construction and demolition debris. Mr. Roe added that DEEP will be looking at how to tie this into demolition permits so that building departments would carry some responsibility.

Mr. Roe said Objective Two was that CT must develop/improve recycling and waste conversion technologies. He explained that waste conversion technologies are less clear. Mr. Vitale stated that any town that was below 25%, the DEEP wanted to institute pay as you throw. He added another program to get to 45% would be to enforcement. He said if a town was above 25%, they were ok, but if a town was below 25%, the DEEP would want to sit down with that town. He added the conversion technology was really anaerobic digestion or composting, which was food waste oriented or could be sludge or other materials. He said the State was trying to pull out fast food or greases and the State was looking for a 10% reduction on that side. He added they also wanted a 10% reduction in packaging.

Mr. Vitale stated that DEEP no longer felt that glass was easily recyclable because there was no market for it. He added that they couldn't take it out of the stream because it would create a drop in the percentages. Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Vitale to explain why glass was not recyclable. Mr. Vitale replied that there was no secondary market for recycled glass. There then ensued a discussion about the economics of glass recycling. Mr. Roe stated the State did not have an answer at this time. Mr. Kendzior mentioned the State was offering incentive programs for pay as you throw if a Town wanted to participate. Mr. Vitale said he was aware of several towns that fell below the 25% that instituted the program. Mr. Kendzior said Meriden would be participating in the pilot program, although it would be after he retired.

Mayor Dickinson asked on what basis the State felt the trash-to-energy program was coming to an end. Mr. Roe said that the State is trying to "right-size" the burn capacity with the strategy that is more in line with their environmental policy to encourage recovery of materials that have value. Mayor Dickinson asked if there would be no more trash-to-energy plants. Mr. Vitale answered that the State was looking for another technology, which they haven't identified, to replace energy-to-waste programs. He said he attended a meeting with the State and came to the realization that the alternative, if they don't "right-size" or 60% conversion, that waste will be transferred to landfills in New York or Pennsylvania. The State is looking at the greenhouse gas impacts of transferring all that waste to other states. This may elevate energy-to-waste back into play if they don't come up with an alternative route. Mr. Roe stated that DEEP was in the marketplace soliciting proposals for conversion of the Mid-Con facility. Those proposals had been submitted and review should be underway. He added these were proposals to change the technology. Mr. Vitale added this was to change the "Hartford Project" in some form. He added there were 700,000 tons that went through Hartford today, so they were looking for a project that would handle



between 500,000-700,000 tons but not necessarily in Hartford. He added it could be throughout the state, it could be a different technology and that it was wide-open field. Mayor Dickinson commented that it could be retooling the existing plant. Mr. Vitale agreed and added there were many players who didn't want the facility there. He added that Covanta bid on the project.

Mayor Dickinson asked Mr. Vitale what Covanta's approach would be if they won the bid. Mr. Vitale replied they had submitted several bids, one of which was waste to energy. He said Covanta had looked at other technology but they weren't sure of what other technology could handle the volume of waste that went through the plant at this time. He added that everything else that had been tried had either failed, expanded, or worked in the test tube but was not tested at a rate of 700,000 tons. Mr. Vitale said one thing they had looked at very hard was how to get organic material out of the MSW stream. They felt they had come across a couple of technologies that could do that, but that nothing was free. Mr. Vitale said one problem was the RFP, which was trying to hold the rate to \$70.00 a ton. Mr. Vitale said the cost to transport waste to a landfill in 2021 will be \$90-\$100 a ton, which included processing. He added that looking at the trends, there would still be 2 million tons of MSW somewhere in the market. He said that even if the population flat-lined, at the 60% there would still be 1.8 million tons. There is capacity in the State right now at waste to energy plants, but there were a couple of projects that were at risk, such as Preston or Lisbon, which was no longer profitable. Mr. Vitale said if either plant was lost, the State would be out of balance again. He said Covanta had been trying to get some help on the energy side, since the price, averaging approximately \$30 per megawatt doesn't work. Mr. Roe stated today was the Public Hearing on the proposed plan and any written comments were due today as well. He added that he did not prepare any comments to be submitted. Mr. Vitale said their industry had the support of the haulers because they realized the plants were needed.

Mayor Dickinson questioned the DEEP's position on shipping waste out of state depending upon the cost. Mr. Vitale replied when he had spoken to the energy side of DEEP, they were not very interested in energy-to-waste and they were not supportive of the plants that were energy-to-waste. He said DEEP felt if the waste needed to go out of state, then that was what they would do. He said he didn't know if DEEP was aware of the cost of gas being put back onto them, but that would level the field a bit. Mayor Dickinson commented that it appeared to be a debate within DEEP. Mr. Vitale said the waste people realized there would be a problem if capacity went away, the cost would rise. He added that something would take its place. Mayor Dickinson commented he felt the joining of energy and DEEP was a mistake.

Mr. Roe stated that essentially, what DEEP had done was to put waste to energy at the bottom of their hierarchy. Mayor Dickinson stated they could look at waste energy as being recycling: recycling unusable material into usable energy. Mr. Roe stated the price point for waste-to-energy, at three cents a kilowatt, was a price point that didn't work. Mr. Kendzior commented that he wondered what happened between the three cents a kilowatt versus the seven and one-half cents per kilowatt he paid for electricity in Meriden. Mr. Vitale noted that he was probably paying eleven cents a kilowatt. Mr.

Kendzior stated the Town of Meriden had tied into a seven cent per kilowatt rate. Mr. Vitale said most other areas were paying eleven cents a kilowatt, and said it had been an interesting process trying to sell energy to other entities directly. He said at every turn there had been a road block. Mr. Kendzior stated the answer would be to let the companies sell energy directly to the customers. Mayor Dickinson stated that UI and Eversource needed a renewable portfolio, so the companies were buying renewable green at a much higher price that was all subsidized. Mr. Kendzior stated waste-to-energy was not classified as renewable, so was not subsidized. Mayor Dickinson commented that the State should re-regulate the industry and bring it back down to the basics as a necessity of modern society, all of the money making middle-men could be cut out. He said then the prices would come down, then they could deal with what would be connected, not tied into middle-men making money. Mr. Kendzior commented all energy had become was resale after resale. Mr. Vitale stated Covanta had tried different ways to sell the energy they produced.

**D. *N.E. Recycling Conference & Expo: May 16 & 17, Nashua, NH***

Mr. Roe explained that the N.E. Resource Recovery's annual meeting, "It's not easy being green", happens in May. This was an organization that Doreen Zaback had been participating in. He said if a Policy Board member had a staff person to attend, the Project could pick up the cost.

**E. *Update on DEEP MIRA RFP, "Resource Rediscovery: Modernizing the CT Solid Waste System Project"***

Mr. Roe stated the update on the DEEP MIRA RFP had been discussed earlier.

**VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Policy Board will be held July 13, 2016.

**VIII. Adjourn**

Michael Milone made a motion to adjourn, Mayor Dickinson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.



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Susan Schott

April 14, 2016